

## MINUTES OF THE FORT HOOD RETIREE COUNCIL MEETING

1. The 10 March 2005 meeting of the Fort Hood Retiree Council convened at 1200 hours in the Fort Hood Officers Club, Building 5764.

### 2. Membership Attendance:

a. Members Present: LTG(Ret) Taylor, Chairman; COL(Ret) Gauer; COL(Ret) Portmann; COL(Ret) Somera; COL(Ret) Davis; LTC(Ret) Woodward; CW3(Ret) Hanger; CSM(R) Minosky, Member; 1SG(Ret) Stotts; 1SG(Ret) Fisher; USAF; 1SG(Ret) Miller; MSG(Ret) Hayner; MSG(Ret) Wood; SCPO(Ret) Lubasky, USN; and SFC(Ret) Evans-Quickley.

b. Members Absent: CSM(R) Cayton, Vice Chairman; MG(Ret) Meyer, Assoc. Member; Col(Ret) Oliver, Assoc. Member; COL(Ret) Davis; and Mrs. Greathouse, Widow.

### 3. The Chairman called the meeting to order.

4. The Chairman introduced, COL Victoria Bruzese, Commander, US Army Garrison. COL Bruzese thanked the Council for inviting her and introduced her Garrison CSM and representatives from PMO, Commissary, and AAFES to help address any concerns and questions from the Council. She then opened the session for discussion.

a. PMO (Mr. Kenneth Lunceford). The Chairman opened up the discussion with PMO by letting the Provost Marshal know that we appreciate their great customer service by the guards at the gate and the great security provided by the MPs and the civilian security. The Chairman brought up that the guards at the gates can no longer inspect cars under the canopy which is a major inconvenience not only for the driver/passengers, but also the security guards (especially in inclement weather). PMO said that he was unaware of that policy and would check into it. PMO announced that Phantom Express is available for Retirees to use also. It was also stated there is no limit on number of drivers registered on a Phantom Express card.

b. Commissary (Mr. John Williams). Question was raised by a Council member why the sections are changed around in the commissary. Mr. Williams stated that DECA determines how much "face time" in aisles that certain products should receive. DECA also determines which items to add/delete to the commissaries. Periodically the commissaries have to "re-set" to a lot proper space for better customer service. The question was also raised how to make suggestions at the commissary. Mr. Williams said that there are suggestion boxes at each commissary and if you provide your name and number you will be contacted in reference to your suggestion. Mr. Williams also brought up that DECA Scholarship program and that information could be found on how to apply at [www.DECA.com](http://www.DECA.com).

c. AAFES (Mr. Carmichael). AAFES addressed some programs that are available for Retirees and their families and survivors: Star Card mails out coupon books with great savings; Retirement Coupon book available for those Soldiers retiring (request through AAFES); Make the Grade (K-12) receive coupon book and are registered to win a \$5,000 -10,000 dollar savings bond; and also the Phone Calling Program, customers can buy phone cards and designate to OIF for service members to use. Cleanliness of the restrooms in the PXs was brought up by the Council. Mr. Carmichael said a cleaning crew cleans the bathrooms every 30 minutes, however, there is too much traffic for the size of the facility. No good short term fix, but the long term fix is a new complex which is being planned in the future. The Council asked that a trash can be put in the bathrooms or just outside the door. Mr. Carmichael said that would be an easy fix. Another issue brought up by the Council, vendors blocking the aisles so that wheel chairs can not maneuver through the PX. Mr. Carmichael stated that vendors sign a contract stating they will keep the aisles clear. Any violations should be reported to the store manager and will be taken care of immediately. Council

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d. Also Handicap Parking and Disabled Veteran Parking at the Clear Creek PX was brought up as a concern by the Council. This does not fall under the jurisdiction of AAFES. The Garrison Commander agreed to have a member from DPW and Safety address the Council on this issue at a future meeting.

e. The Chairman addressed plans for a future Regional Medical Complex at Fort Hood. COL Bruzese stated that LTG Metz had already expressed since his return that this is still a priority.

f. Garrison CSM (CSM McMurtrie). CSM McMurtrie discussed the effects of the full contingency back on Fort Hood for the next several months. Should expect back up of traffic during peak hours. Also, Fort Hood will be mobilizing about 1700 soldiers per month. During the summer period Fort Hood will have approximately 45,000-47,000 soldiers on post. The Chairman added that Fort Hood and surrounding Retiree community provides a 6 billion dollar economic impact for this area. CSM McMurtrie addressed the use of metal detectors on this installation and that their use is not allowed. Must have approval through the Corps of Engineers at Dallas, TX and that approval has not been given.

g. The Chairman opened the discussion for alibis for any of the Garrison Representatives. Council members raised concern reference wearing of gang related clothing and improper attire at post facilities. CSM McMurtrie stated that it is difficult to enforce on family members, but Soldiers are not allowed to wear gang related clothing. Mr. Carmichael stated that AAFES does have a dress code policy and tries very hard to enforce it. If someone is found in violation to please report it to the facility manager and that person will be asked to leave the facility.

5. The Chairman thanked the Garrison Commander and her representatives for coming and providing the Council with important information and updates. He invited them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they desired. The Chairman then continued with the rest of the meeting. He announced to the Council that Representative Carter had agreed to be the guest speaker for the upcoming Retiree Appreciation Day Opening Ceremony (29 Oct 05).

6. SFC(Ret) Waller asked the Council to think of nominees for the Honorary Retiree for this year's Retiree Appreciation Day. The Chairman stated that he had asked SFC(Ret) Waller to compile a list of previous Honorary Retirees for the next meeting so that a more formal selection process could be established. The Chairman assured the Council that selection criteria had been used informally in the past, but would like to establish more official process of selection.

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7. COL(Ret) Portmann updated the council on the CSA Retiree Council Meeting in April 2005. Forty-five issues had been submitted to the CSA Retiree Council to be worked at the upcoming meeting (to include the issue reference "Equity of Retiree Health Care" from Fort Hood). He will continue to provide updated information reference the CSA Council meeting as it becomes available. COL(Ret) Portmann had no health care issues to report from the Health Consumer Committee Meeting.

8. LTC(Ret) Woodward reported on Volunteer/Club Activities. LTC(Ret) Woodward stated that the American Red Cross still needs volunteers for the Caremobile at Darnall Hospital. Council members brought up that they had tried to volunteer but the process needed discipline. One Council member showed up 3 times to be

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certified by the Driver Trainer, but the trainer failed to show. LTC(Ret) Woodward stated he would check into it and report back to the Council. He reported that DMWR is looking at 2 or 3 options to generate income for the O'Club. One of which is to charge for use of the rooms by non-profit organizations. The Chairman commented that the O'club will put itself out of business if this happened. LTC(Ret) Woodward asked SFC(Ret) Waller to check if this did happen would funds be available for the Retiree Council to continue to meet at the O'club. Also, DMWR is hosting a Focus Group from CFC at the Fort Hood bowling alley, 1230-1330, 22 March. LTC(Ret) Woodward will attend as a Retiree representative. Any one else interested in attending were asked to get with LTC(Ret) Woodward.

9. CW3(Ret) Hanger gave an update on commissary activities. He reported that Black Angus beef is being sold at both commissaries. Because of rising petroleum costs, the commissaries are asking that customers request paper bags instead of plastic to help keep costs down. He also stated there has been some problems with scanned prices, so be sure to pay attention when checking out and bring any discrepancies to the manager's attention.

10. The Chairman opened up the council for an open forum. Council members expressed that the meeting was very productive and informative. The Chairman suggested that LTG Metz be invited to the next meeting to speak to the Council at the next meeting. The motion was made and seconded to invite LTG Metz. It was also agreed that the date of the meeting should be changed if needed to accommodate the III Corps Commander's schedule.

11. The Chairman informed the council that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 9 June 2005, FHOC, (subject to change due to III Corps CG's availability) and adjourned the meeting at 1320 hours.

//ORIGINAL SIGNED//  
LTG(Ret) H. G. TAYLOR  
Chairman

Approved/Disapproved



WILLIAM J. TROY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Chief of Staff